

I was recently contacted by a member of the Minnesota Department of Health on the subject of supporting mandatory HF communications between that office and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in the event of a smallpox or other health threat that might happen in conjunction with an Internet outage. This Power Line Internet technology, along with helping to deprive electric utilities of capital that should be spend on power generation equipment instead of speculative .com schemes (Ricochet is a recent example) will certainly endanger emergency and low power HF communications and shortwave listening. There is too much broadband competition right now- there are abandoned Ricochet Broadband Internet antennnas on power poles all over my city.